

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALCUT 02019 280304Z

64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
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R 270218Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY DACCA

UNCLAS CALCUTTA 2019

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IN

SUBJ: EARLY WARNING: INTEREST IN PURCHASE FROM U.S. SOURCES
OF INLAND VESSELS

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH CONGEN OFFICER, COMMANDER K. CHELLIAH, CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL INLAND WATER TRANSPORT CORP., LTD., EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURCHASE FROM U.S. OF FIVE OR SIX VESSELS CAPABLE OF OPERATION ON INLAND WATER ROUTE FROM CALCUTTA THROUGH BANGLADESH TO ASSAM. HE IS LOOKING FOR 1,000 TON VESSELS OF EIGHT TO TEN FOOT DRAFT. INTERESTED PARTIES COULD COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH COMMANDER CHELLIAH AT 4 FAIRLIE PLACE, CALCUTTA 700001 OR THROUGHCONSULATE.

2. CHELLIAH HAS JUST BEEN SECONDED TO CENTRAL INLAND WATER TRANSPORT CORP. (CIWTC) FROM SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA FOR TWO YEARS TO TRY AND PUT IT ON A FIRMER FOOTING. CIWTC, A GOI OWNED FIRM, HAS BEEN LOSING A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY RECENTLY. GOI WILL KEEP IT GOING FOR POLITICAL REASONS, BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT PROFITABLE OR AT LEAST LESS UNPROFITABLE. CHELLIAH IS LOOKING FOR ALL POSSIBLE WAYS OF ACCOMPLISHING GOAL.

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3. REQUEST TRADE OPPORTUNITY BE PUBLICIZED IN

COMMERCE TODAY OR HOWEVER ELSE THOUGHT APPROPRIATE.

4. CHELLIAH ALSO WONDERED WHETHER WORLD BANK
MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN MAKING LOAN FOR GENERAL
UPGRADING OF CIWTC. HE WAS ADVISED TO APPLY TO
BANK DIRECTLY, BUT IF DEPARTMENT CAN GIVE ANY
ADVISE ON THIS MATTER, POST WOULD BE HAPPY TO
PASS IT ALONG.

KORN

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NNN

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